

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Claims 1 and 5 are amended. Claims 11-18 are newly added.

STATEMENT OF OBLIGATION OF ASSIGNMENT TO THE SAME ORGANIZATION MPEP 706.02(L)(2)

The present application and U.S. Patent U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,571,208 6,141,644 were, at the time the invention of the present Application was made, under an obligation of assignment to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 and 5 are amended. The present Claims 1-10 now particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Hence, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-10,

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhn et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,208) in view of Kuhn et al. ("Rapid speaker adaptation in eigenvoice space," November, 2000) and Padmanabhan et al.,

("Speaker clustering and transformation of speaker adaptation in speech recognition systems", January 1998). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhn et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,208) in view of Kuhn et al. ("Rapid speaker adaptation in eigenvoice space," November, 2000) and Padmanabhan et al., ("Speaker clustering and transformation of speaker adaptation in speech recognition systems", January 1998) and further in view of Kuhn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,644). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application and the cited patent references to Kuhn et al. (U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,571,208 and 6,141,644) were subject to an obligation of assignment to the same organization, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan., at the time the invention of the present application was made. A statement to this effect is included above. Under 35 U.S.C. 103 and MPEP 706.02(I)(1) the above statement disqualifies U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,208 and 6,141,644 as prior art and hence the rejection is improper. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 9-10 and allow the same. Claim 6 depends on Claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have added new Claim 11 which is Claim 6 rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and other recitations for consistency. Therefore, claim 11 should now be in condition for allowance. Further Claims 12-18 depend on Claim

11 and hence are allowable for at least the same reason as Claim 11. Therefore, Claims 11-18 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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